

Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

2019 Combined Weed Program Review

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Please clean your pet before moving to a new area.

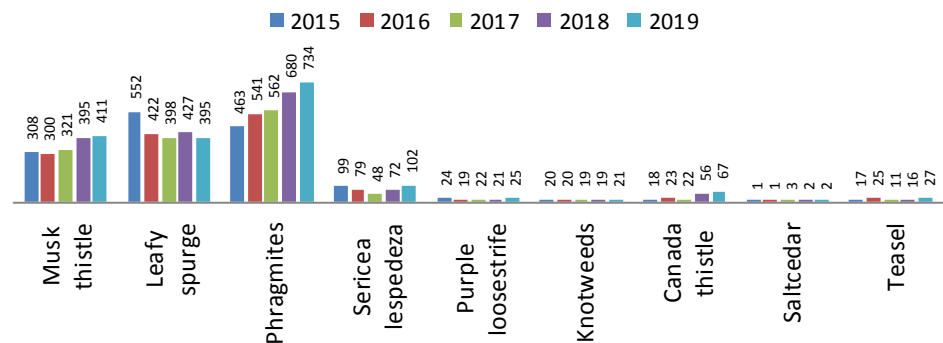
“Once a weed has entered into an area, Early Detection – Rapid Response (EDRR) is crucial to reduce its potential environmental and economic impacts”



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

PlayCleanGo.org

Noxious Weed Infestations



Early Detection Rapid Response

Prevention is the most effective method of dealing with weeds. Once a weed has entered an area and become established, eradication is far more expensive and it is likely that greater resources will be required to control its further spread and reduce its impact.

The first step in weed prevention, and the most cost effective means of managing weeds, is

preventing the entry of new weeds into an area.

Once a weed has entered into an area, Early Detection – Rapid Response (EDRR) is crucial to reduce its potential environmental and economic impacts. It is much easier to treat weeds when present in small numbers than when they are well established.

EDRR requires an awareness and understanding of the factors that favor the

establishment and spread of weeds, and applying appropriate management practices that can prevent or reduce the risks.

The importance of weed spread prevention has grown with the recognition that the spread of most weeds occurs through similar pathways, such as the movement of goods, animals and vehicles contaminated with weed seeds. Currently, individual states and counties have different approaches to managing the spread of weeds.

UPLNK App Usage Continues to Increase

The City of Lincoln's UPLNK App usage continues to increase as more citizens turn to technology to report unmaintained properties.

In 2019 the Weed Authority received a total of 3,155 complaints; UPLNK was responsible

for 56% (1,777) of them.

Weed abatement is the #2 request for service annually in Lincoln - second only to potholes.

From May through November weed abatement is the #1 request for service from the citizens of Lincoln.

Request by Category 2019

Potholes	5,609
Property – Tall Grass/Weeds	1,777
Parking – For over 24 Hours on City Street	1,351

“The overall number of abatements in 2019 increased by 88, totaling 270; this is a 48.4% increase”



Cutleaf teasel along Salt Creek in Lincoln

“With the ease of turning in complaints electronically on UPLNK, our web site, smart phones and tablets we received 3,155 complaints from the public

2019 City of Lincoln Abatements

Any time a property owner does not comply with our legal notice to maintain their property below the city height ordinance; our office hires a contractor to cut the property. Once the cutting is complete we file a “notice of possible unpaid weed assessment” with the Register of Deeds. If the assessment isn’t paid, a lien is attached to the property and is treated the same as unpaid property taxes.

2019 Weed Abatements

- 2014 228
- 2015 266
- 2016 258
- 2017 253
- 2018 182
- 2019 270

Average 243

The overall number of abatements in 2019 increased by 88, totaling 270; this is a 48.4% increase. The number of legal notices issued increased from 737 in 2018 to 1,222 in 2019. The number of properties inspected increased from 2,692 to 3,521. In addition to the legal notices, we also sent 1,862 letters, posted 1,717 warning signs and made 122 personal contacts to get properties controlled.

Noxious Weeds Inside Lincoln City Limits

Noxious weeds know no boundaries. They find themselves at home inside the city limits, along the creeks, in wetlands and waste areas just as well as in the rural areas. Saltcedar, purple loosestrife and knotweed were first introduced as ornamentals and planted in our landscapes, so they are found more in the city than in rural areas. It’s important to control them in the city to prevent the spread into rural areas. In

2019, 30.3% of our noxious weed infestations occurred inside the city limits. While these infestations are very small in the total number of acres infested, we continue to find noxious weeds all around the city, many along the creeks and in waste areas. Our city inspectors made 1,168 inspections on 734 sites and found 546 sites infested with noxious weeds.

Lincoln’s Noxious Weeds number of sites infested in 2019

- Musk thistle 195
- Phragmites 152
- Leafy spurge 109
- Purple loosestrife 15
- Knotweed 21
- Canada thistle 43
- Teasel 10
- Saltcedar 1

City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

Weed Abatement (total inspections)

2014	8,310
2015	7,796
2016	6,210
2017	5,843
2018	5,888
2019	8,120

Weed Abatement inspections increased from 5,888 in 2018 to

8,120 in 2019, a 37.9% increase. These inspection numbers represent only the 6” height ordinance on overgrown properties; they do NOT include noxious weed inspections. The total number of properties on which these inspections occurred has also increased from 2,692 in 2018 to 3,521 in 2019,

a 30.8% increase.

Our office encourages citizens to let us know when their neighbor’s properties become a violation.

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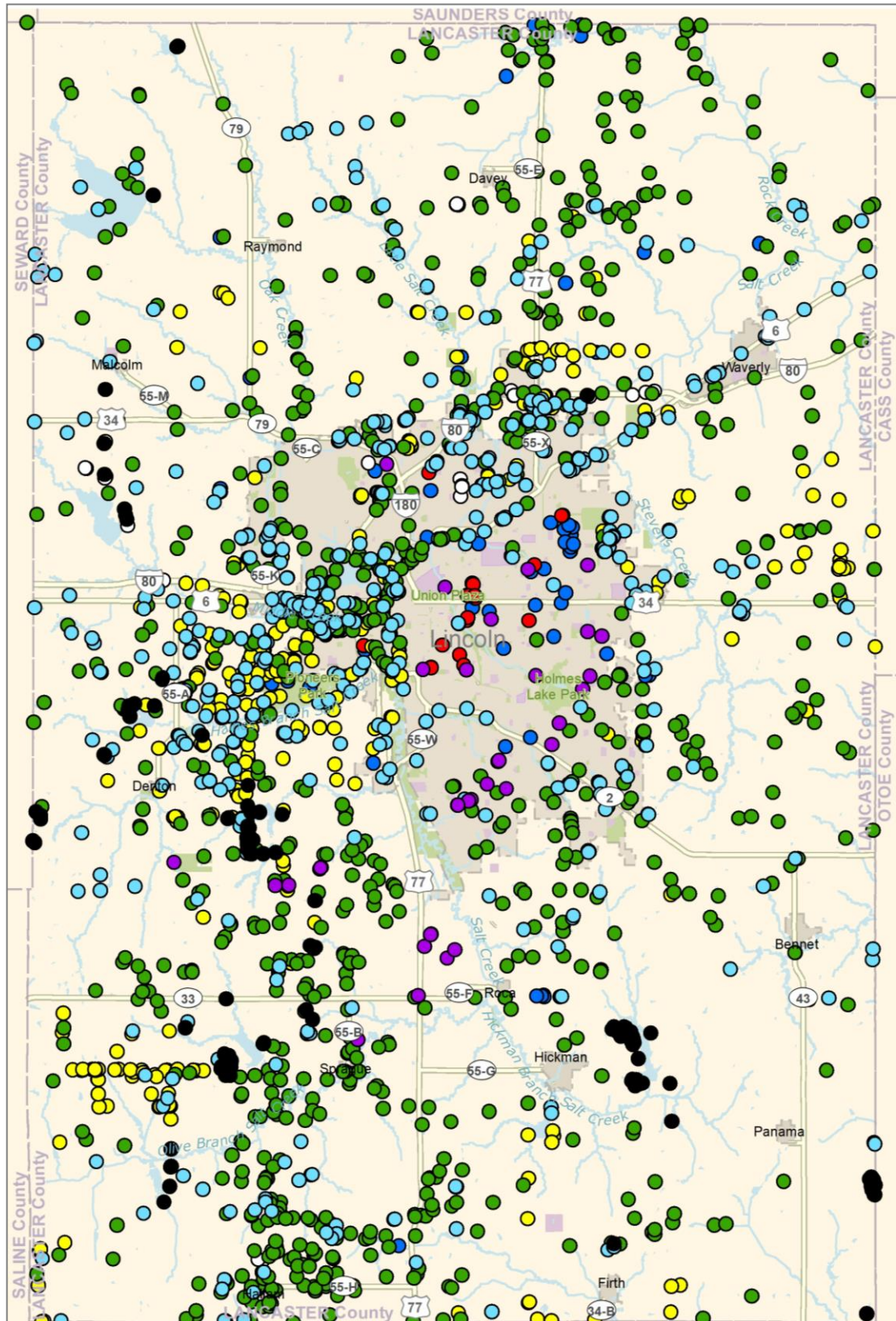
2019 Noxious Weed Locations



Lancaster County, NE

Map Key

- Phragmites
- Saltcedar
- Leafy spurge
- Purple loosestrife
- Canada thistle
- Teasel
- Knotweed
- Sericea lespedeza
- Musk thistle



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We're on the Web!

lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

*"There are "invasive" plants
we recommend controlling,
but they do not meet the
criteria necessary to be listed
as noxious"*

**Good Neighbors –
Control Invasive Weeds !!!**

Combined Weed Program

Almost every parcel outside of developed residential lots has or had one or more kinds of noxious weeds present. The key to noxious weed control is not allowing the plants to seed. This requires persistence and follow-up. Most of the public and private landowners understand this and are keeping their noxious weeds under control. It is the job of noxious weed control authority staff to assist landowners in the job of controlling noxious weeds. Many landowners are accomplishing control without any assistance or contact from the authority. The authority carries out a strong information and awareness program along with an extensive inspection program to encourage voluntary compliance of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act.

The authority has also provided the inspection and administration of the City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement program since entering into an Interlocal agreement with the City in 1996. The County Commissioners serve as the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority. Brent Meyer serves as the Superintendent and supervises a seasonal staff of six weed inspectors with the assistance of Chief Inspector Pat Dugan and Account Clerk Danni McGown.

What Makes A Weed "Noxious" vs "Invasive"?

In the plant world we often throw around the terms "noxious" and "invasive" when referring to plants. This often raises the question - What's the difference?

Confused? Let me explain... only the worst of the worst weeds make it to the [Nebraska's noxious weed list](#). When a plant becomes noxious, it requires landowners to control the plant on their property to prevent spread to neighboring properties. I would consider all of Nebraska's noxious weeds to also be invasive.

According to [Nebraska's Weed Control Act](#):

The term Noxious weeds means and includes any weeds designated and listed as noxious in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the

Director of Agriculture.

To be listed as "noxious" there is a process used to evaluate the plant before it is considered for the noxious weed list, and before it would go to the Director of Agriculture for consideration.

Nebraska Law requires a plant meet at least 6 of 9 criteria developed to help evaluate the plant. The process begins with a scientific review of the plant called a Weed Risk Assessment (WRA). This Assessment is used to determine if the plant poses a threat to Nebraska. A few of the criteria include; *the plant poses a threat to Nebraska's economy, environment, social welfare, wildlife, or safety; the plant is listed as*

noxious in at least two neighboring states; the plant reproduces and disseminates rapidly; the plant is not native to Nebraska; Infestation levels have been surveyed and documented in the State.

There are "invasive" plants we recommend controlling, but they do not meet the necessary criteria to be listed as noxious.

Being non-native is the one criteria required for any plant to be considered as noxious. Example; Poison ivy is often considered an invasive plant and some think it should be "noxious", but poison ivy is a native plant to Nebraska, so it will not likely ever make it to Nebraska's noxious weed list.